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ABSTRACT

This document presents provisional data for all Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) questionnaire items from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) for August 1987. It notes that the AIDS questionnaire was designed to provide baseline estimates of public knowledge and attitudes about AIDS transmission, the prevention of AIDS virus infection, and changes in knowledge and attitudes over time. A section on selected findings reports that over 99% of respondents had heard of AIDS; 89% were certain that AIDS leads to death; 83% were certain there is no cure for AIDS; over 90% were aware of AIDS transmission through sexual contact with a person with AIDS or through sharing a needle for drug use with someone having AIDS; over 70% had heard about blood tests for AIDS; 90% felt they personally had no chance or a low chance of getting AIDS; and almost 90% realized that both celibacy and restricting sexual activity to a monogamous relationship with a person who did not have AIDS were effective ways to avoid the virus. Table 1 displays provisional estimates of the percentage distributions of persons 18 years of age and over by response categories according to age, gender, race, and marital status. In most cases, the actual question asked of the respondent is reproduced verbatim in table 1, along with the response categories. In a few cases, questions or response categories have been rephrased or combined. Results are discussed concerning respondents' awareness of AIDS, self-perceived knowledge about AIDS, general knowledge about AIDS, transmission of AIDS, blood tests for AIDS, risk of getting AIDS, AIDS prevention, and AIDS discussion and education. (NB)

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AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes

Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey: United States, August 1987

by Deborah A. Dawson, Ph.D., Marcie Cynamon, M.A., and Joseph E. Fitti, M.S.P.H., Division of Health Interview Statistics

Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics has introduced questions on the adult population's knowledge and attitudes about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). This report presents provisional findings for August, the first month of data collection with the AIDS questionnaire.

The AIDS questionnaire was designed to provide baseline estimates of public knowledge and attitudes about AIDS transmission and prevention of AIDS virus infection and changes in knowledge and attitudes over time. Data also were needed for the planning and development of AIDS educational campaigns and for evaluation of educational efforts.

The AIDS questionnaire was developed by the National Center for Health Statistics and interagency working groups established by the Information, Education and Risk Factor Reduction Subcommittee of the Public Health Service Executive Task Force on AIDS. The working groups included representatives from the Centers for Disease Control; the National Institutes of Health; the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration; and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The questionnaire includes items on self-assessment of knowledge about AIDS; sources of information about AIDS; knowledge about AIDS and AIDS-related risk factors, modes of transmission, and blood tests for the AIDS virus; plans to take such a test; recent experience with blood donation; self-assessment of chances of getting AIDS; personal knowledge of people with AIDS or the AIDS virus; and finally, the willingness of respondents to take part in a proposed national seroprevalence study.

This report presents provisional data for all AIDS questionnaire items. Table 1 displays percent distributions of persons 18 years of age and over by response categories according to age, sex, race, and marital status. In most cases, the actual question asked of the respondent is reproduced verbatim in table 1, along with the response categories. In a few cases, questions or response categories have been rephrased or combined. Refusals and other nonresponses are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of "don't know" are included.

Selected findings

Awareness of AIDS—Virtually everyone (more than 99 percent) has heard of AIDS. Almost three-fourths of adults (74 percent) last saw, heard, or read something about AIDS within 3 days of the NHIS interview.

Self-perceived knowledge—Twenty percent of adults 18 years of age and over feel that they know a lot about AIDS (compared to most people); 40 percent feel they know some; 30 percent feel they know a little; and 10 percent feel they know nothing about AIDS. Adults 50 years and over are more likely than younger adults to state that they know nothing about AIDS and less likely to think that they know a lot. Black respondents (17 percent) are almost twice as likely as white respondents (9 percent) to state that they know nothing about AIDS.

General knowledge—Figure 1 shows the percents answering "definitely true" and "probably true" to selected knowledge questions. The majority of respondents are certain that AIDS leads to death (89 percent) and that there is

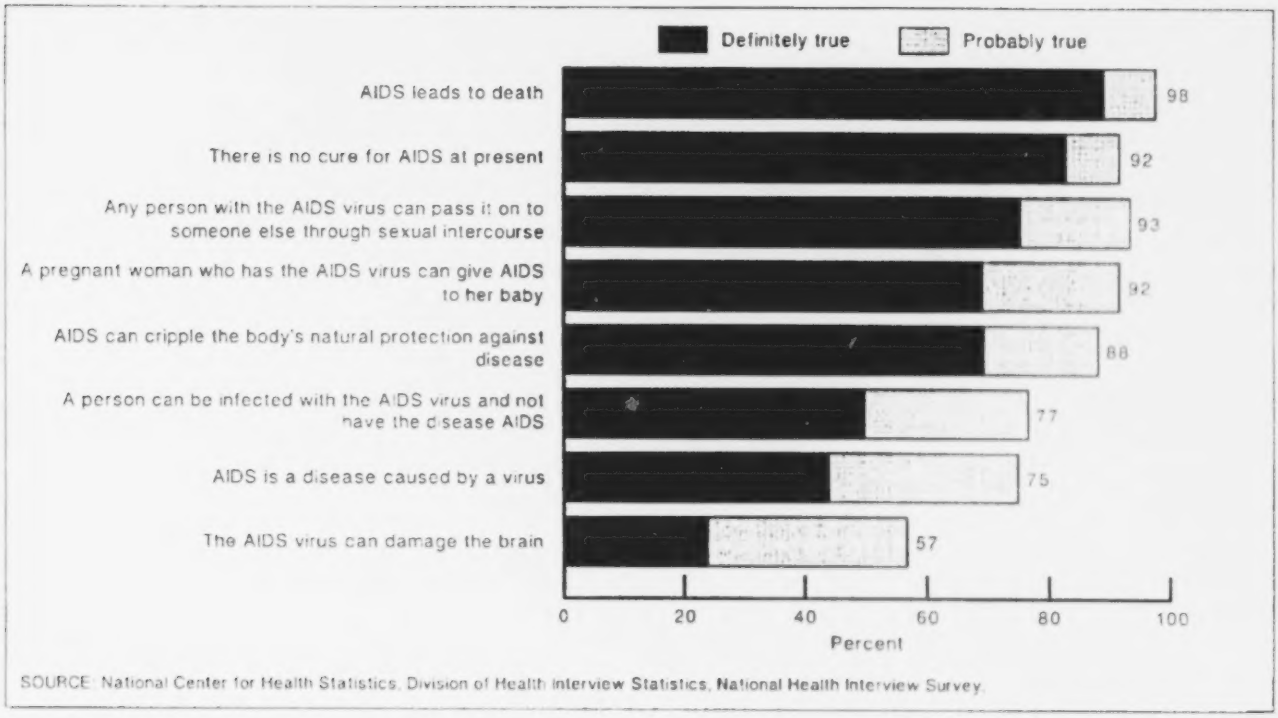
Definitely true
Probably true
AIDS leads to death
98
There is no cure for AIDS at present
92
Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else through sexual intercourse
93
A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give AIDS to her baby
92
AIDS can cripple the body's natural protection against disease
88
A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS
77
AIDS is a disease caused by a virus
75
The AIDS virus can damage the brain
57
0
20
40
60
80
100
Percent
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, Division of Health Interview Statistics, National Health Interview Survey.

Figure 1. Provisional estimates of percent of adults 18 years of age and over who think selected statements about AIDS are definitely true or probably true: United States, August 1987

no cure for AIDS at present (83 percent). Three-fourths of adults think that it is definitely true that anyone with the AIDS virus can transmit it to other individuals through sexual intercourse; another 18 percent think that it is probably true. About two-thirds of the adults in the United States definitely think that AIDS can cripple the body's natural protection against disease and that a pregnant woman can transmit AIDS to her baby.

There is less certainty about the causes of AIDS and about the relationship between the AIDS virus and the disease AIDS: 44 percent of adults definitely believe that a virus causes AIDS, and 31 percent think that this is probably true; 50 percent are certain that a person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS, and 27 percent think that this is probably true. Adults are less informed about the specific ways that AIDS can affect its victims than about its causes; for example, 24 percent are certain that the AIDS virus can damage the brain. For the most part, the lowest levels of general knowledge are found among adults 50 years of age and over, consistent with their own self-assessment as a group that they know relatively little about the disease.

Transmission of the AIDS virus—Most Americans are aware of the ways in which the AIDS virus is most likely to be transmitted. More than 9 out of 10 adults say that it is very likely that a person will get AIDS from having sex with a person who has AIDS (92 percent) or by sharing needles for drug use with someone who has AIDS (91 percent). On the other hand, the level of misinformation about modes of transmission, particularly from casual contact, is very high. For example, donating blood is considered a likely mode of transmission by 25 percent; working near someone with AIDS by 21 percent; sharing eating utensils with someone who has AIDS by 47 percent; using public toilets by 31 percent; and being bitten by mosquitoes or other insects by 38 percent.

Black respondents are significantly more likely than white respondents to perceive a threat of AIDS virus infection from receiving a blood transfusion, donating blood, using public toilets, or various other types of casual contact with persons who have AIDS.

There are few differences by age, sex, and marital status in knowledge or misinformation about the transmission of AIDS.

Blood test for the AIDS virus—A number of questions were asked about blood tests for the AIDS virus. Overall, 70 percent of adults have heard of the blood test. Persons 30-49 years of age are most likely (79 percent) and persons 50 years of age and over least likely (57 percent) to have heard of the test. Although there is widespread awareness that a blood test for the AIDS virus is available, there appears to be some misunderstanding about the purpose of the test. Forty-one percent of adults (58 percent of those who have heard of the test) erroneously believe that the blood test results tell whether a person has the disease AIDS.

Seven percent of respondents report having had their blood tested for the AIDS virus, including 2 percent who voluntarily said that they were tested because of a blood donation or transfusion. (On the other hand, about 12 percent report having given blood since January 1985, the approximate date when routine testing of donated blood

began.) These provisional data indicate that adults under age 30 are about four times as likely to have had the AIDS blood test as persons 50 years of age and over. In addition, 11 percent of all adults have thought about having the AIDS test, and 4 percent say that they plan to be tested in the next 12 months. Twelve percent of Americans age 18 years and over know someone who has had the AIDS blood test.

Risk of getting AIDS—Most adults believe that they (and the people that they know) are at little or no risk of AIDS virus infection. Nine in 10 feel that there is no chance (60 percent) or a low chance (30 percent) of getting AIDS themselves. Six in 10 say that the chance of someone they know getting AIDS is low (34 percent) or nonexistent (26 percent). Six percent of adults report personally knowing someone with the AIDS virus.

AIDS prevention—Almost 9 out of 10 Americans realize that both celibacy and restricting sexual activity to a monogamous relationship with a person who does not have the AIDS virus are very effective ways to avoid infection with the AIDS virus. One-third (34 percent) think that using condoms is a very effective way to avoid the virus, and an additional 48 percent consider this method somewhat effective. Slightly more than one-half of the adults in the United States (56 percent) think that using a diaphragm is not an effective way to avoid infection with the AIDS virus. An almost equal proportion (54 percent) feel that using spermicides is ineffective in AIDS prevention.

AIDS discussion and education—Two-thirds of adults (67 percent) have discussed AIDS with friends or relatives. Persons age 50 and over are the least likely to have done so. Of adults with children between the ages of 10 and 17, 60 percent have talked with their children about AIDS (12 percent of all adults), and just over one-third of those with children in this age range report that their children have received instruction about AIDS at school.

Symbols

-	Quantity zero
0	Quantity more than zero but less than 0.5

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1987

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
	Percent distribution[1]									
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1. Have you ever heard of AIDS? When was the last time you saw, heard, or read something about AIDS?										
0-3 days ago	74	65	77	76	75	72	75	69	76	70
4-7 days ago	14	19	14	11	13	15	14	16	14	14
8-14 days ago	3	4	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
15-31 days ago	4	6	4	3	3	5	4	6	4	4
More than 31 days ago	2	4	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	3
Never heard of AIDS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-	0	1
Don't know	3	2	1	5	3	2	2	5	2	4
2. Compared to most people, how much would you say you know about AIDS?										
A lot	20	22	24	14	20	20	20	18	19	21
Some	40	43	45	31	39	40	41	33	42	36
Little	30	32	26	33	29	31	30	32	29	32
Nothing	10	3	5	22	12	9	9	17	10	11
Don't know	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
3a. AIDS is a disease caused by a virus										
Definitely true	44	52	52	30	48	40	44	39	43	46
Probably true	31	33	31	29	29	32	30	39	31	30
Probably false	4	4	2	5	4	4	4	2	4	3
Definitely false	4	2	3	6	3	5	4	3	4	3
Don't know	18	9	12	31	16	19	18	17	18	17
3b. AIDS can cripple the body's natural protection against disease										
Definitely true	69	72	76	60	70	69	72	54	71	68
Probably true	19	18	17	21	19	19	17	27	18	19
Probably false	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Definitely false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	10	8	5	17	9	11	8	18	9	11
3c. AIDS is especially common in older people										
Definitely true	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
Probably true	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Probably false	24	26	23	23	25	23	24	20	24	23
Definitely false	65	64	70	60	63	66	66	62	66	63
Don't know	9	7	5	16	10	9	8	14	8	12
3d. The AIDS virus can damage the brain										
Definitely true	24	22	24	25	22	26	23	30	23	25
Probably true	33	33	32	33	34	31	33	34	34	31
Probably false	8	11	10	5	9	8	9	7	8	8
Definitely false	5	6	6	4	7	4	6	2	6	5
Don't know	29	28	27	33	28	31	29	27	29	30
3e. AIDS usually leads to heart disease										
Definitely true	7	7	6	8	6	8	6	12	7	7
Probably true	22	22	22	21	21	23	21	27	22	23
Probably false	16	17	20	12	20	14	17	11	16	17
Definitely false	14	15	18	9	16	12	14	12	14	14
Don't know	41	40	34	49	37	44	41	38	41	40
3f. AIDS leads to death										
Definitely true	89	90	92	85	87	91	89	90	90	87
Probably true	8	9	6	10	10	7	8	7	8	9
Probably false	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	-
Definitely false	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Don't know	2	1	1	4	3	2	2	3	1	4
4a. Where do you get most of your information about AIDS?[2]										
Television	81	80	81	83	80	82	81	84	82	80
Newspapers	61	53	65	63	65	58	63	49	64	57
Magazines	30	29	33	26	26	33	31	21	30	29
Radio	10	12	9	9	11	9	10	8	10	10
Relatives and friends	10	15	10	7	10	10	9	17	8	14
Brochures/fliers/pamphlets	7	7	8	5	7	7	5	15	6	8
Doctor/HMO/clinic	6	6	8	5	5	8	6	7	7	5
Other	14	16	16	9	13	14	14	14	13	16
Don't know	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	2	0	1
4b. Of the sources you just told me, from which one do you get the most information?										
Television	54	57	52	55	53	56	53	62	55	53
Newspapers	23	17	24	28	27	20	25	14	24	23
Magazines	8	8	11	6	7	9	9	5	9	7
Brochures/fliers/pamphlets	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	6	2	2
Doctor/HMO/clinic	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Other	9	13	9	7	9	10	9	9	8	12
Don't know	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	3	1	1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1987—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
	Percent distribution[1]									
5a. If you wanted more specific information about AIDS, where would you get it?[2]										
Doctor/HMO/clinic	60	60	60	59	56	63	59	67	60	58
Public health department	16	14	19	13	18	14	16	13	16	15
Library	12	13	16	7	11	13	12	10	13	10
AIDS hot line	9	10	9	8	9	9	9	8	8	10
Other	32	38	31	29	30	35	32	35	31	34
Don't know	11	8	7	18	12	10	11	9	11	11
5b. Which one source would you most likely use?										
Doctor/HMO/clinic	49	48	48	50	45	52	48	52	49	48
Public health department	11	9	15	9	13	9	12	8	12	10
Library	6	7	8	4	6	7	6	6	6	7
AIDS hot line	7	8	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	8
Other	15	19	15	12	16	15	15	17	15	16
Don't know	11	8	7	19	13	10	12	9	12	12
6a. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.										
Definitely true	50	51	59	39	50	50	51	42	51	48
Probably true	27	26	24	31	26	27	28	24	28	26
Probably false	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4
Definitely false	4	7	3	2	4	4	3	10	3	5
Don't know	15	12	10	23	15	15	14	19	14	17
6b. You can tell if people have the AIDS virus just by looking at them.										
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Probably true	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	4	5
Probably false	18	23	15	16	19	17	18	15	18	18
Definitely false	65	64	74	56	66	65	66	64	67	63
Don't know	11	8	6	21	11	12	11	14	11	13
6c. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.										
Definitely true	75	79	78	70	72	79	75	80	76	74
Probably true	18	16	18	20	21	16	19	13	18	19
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Definitely false	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	5	3	2	9	5	4	5	6	4	6
6d. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give AIDS to her baby.										
Definitely true	69	71	73	63	67	71	69	75	69	69
Probably true	22	22	21	25	24	21	23	15	23	22
Probably false	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	1
Definitely false	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	0
Don't know	8	6	6	11	9	7	8	7	8	8
6e. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.										
Definitely true	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	5	2	3
Probably true	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	8	4	5
Probably false	12	15	9	12	12	12	12	11	12	12
Definitely false	65	65	73	56	68	63	68	53	67	62
Don't know	16	14	10	24	13	19	15	23	15	19
6f. There is no cure for AIDS at present.										
Definitely true	83	82	85	81	83	83	85	77	84	80
Probably true	9	9	8	9	9	8	9	9	9	9
Probably false	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Definitely false	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2
Don't know	5	4	4	7	5	5	4	10	4	7
7. How likely do you think it is that a person will get the AIDS virus from—										
7a. Receiving a blood transfusion?										
Very likely	37	37	36	39	35	38	35	50	38	36
Somewhat likely	32	32	31	33	28	35	32	34	32	31
Somewhat unlikely	13	16	14	11	15	12	14	6	13	13
Very unlikely	13	11	16	11	16	10	15	1	13	13
Definitely not possible	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1
Don't know	4	4	2	6	4	4	3	8	3	6
7b. Donating or giving blood?										
Very likely	10	11	9	11	10	10	8	23	10	11
Somewhat likely	15	17	15	15	15	15	14	22	16	15
Somewhat unlikely	14	15	12	16	15	14	14	11	14	13
Very unlikely	35	34	41	30	37	34	37	27	36	34
Definitely not possible	18	18	20	17	18	19	20	6	19	17
Don't know	7	5	4	11	5	8	6	11	5	9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1987—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
	Percent distribution[1]									
7c. Living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients?										
Very likely	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	5	2	1
Somewhat likely	5	7	3	5	6	4	4	8	5	5
Somewhat unlikely	11	13	10	10	10	12	11	12	10	12
Very unlikely	41	43	42	39	44	39	42	41	42	41
Definitely not possible	33	32	37	31	31	36	35	24	34	33
Don't know	8	4	5	13	8	7	7	11	7	8
7d. Working near someone with AIDS?										
Very likely	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	8	5	4
Somewhat likely	16	16	15	17	15	17	16	18	18	13
Somewhat unlikely	17	18	16	17	16	18	18	14	17	17
Very unlikely	35	36	37	32	38	33	36	33	35	36
Definitely not possible	18	18	21	16	18	19	19	13	18	19
Don't know	9	7	6	14	9	8	8	14	8	11
7e. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has AIDS?										
Very likely	11	9	10	13	11	11	10	19	11	10
Somewhat likely	24	24	24	25	25	24	24	29	25	23
Somewhat unlikely	18	22	18	14	19	17	18	15	18	17
Very unlikely	25	25	28	22	25	25	26	16	24	27
Definitely not possible	11	12	12	9	10	11	11	7	11	11
Don't know	11	8	9	17	11	12	11	15	11	12
7f. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has AIDS?										
Very likely	36	31	36	40	33	38	35	42	37	33
Somewhat likely	34	39	33	31	36	32	35	28	35	33
Somewhat unlikely	10	12	12	7	11	9	10	10	10	11
Very unlikely	8	9	10	6	9	8	9	9	8	10
Definitely not possible	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	0	2	2
Don't know	10	7	6	15	9	10	9	10	9	11
7g. Shaking hands with or touching someone who has AIDS?										
Very likely	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	4	2	2
Somewhat likely	10	8	11	12	11	10	10	11	11	8
Somewhat unlikely	19	22	18	18	19	20	20	18	21	16
Very unlikely	39	38	43	35	41	37	39	41	39	39
Definitely not possible	22	26	21	21	21	24	23	16	21	26
Don't know	7	5	5	12	8	6	6	11	6	9
7h. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has AIDS?										
Very likely	15	12	16	17	14	16	15	20	17	12
Somewhat likely	32	34	31	32	32	32	32	30	32	32
Somewhat unlikely	15	20	14	13	16	15	15	14	15	15
Very unlikely	19	17	23	16	20	18	20	16	18	20
Definitely not possible	8	8	10	8	9	8	9	6	9	8
Don't know	10	8	7	15	9	11	9	14	9	12
7i. Using public toilets?										
Very likely	9	9	9	11	9	10	8	17	10	9
Somewhat likely	22	21	20	26	22	22	22	25	22	22
Somewhat unlikely	18	21	18	16	18	19	19	18	19	16
Very unlikely	27	26	32	23	31	24	28	21	28	26
Definitely not possible	13	14	15	10	12	14	13	11	12	14
Don't know	10	9	7	15	9	11	10	10	9	12
7j. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has AIDS?										
Very likely	91	92	94	88	91	92	92	92	92	90
Somewhat likely	5	5	4	8	6	5	6	3	5	6
Somewhat unlikely	0	1	0	-	0	1	0	1	0	0
Very unlikely	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Definitely not possible	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	2	2	1	4	3	2	2	4	2	3
7k. Kissing on the cheek a person who has AIDS?										
Very likely	3	3	4	4	4	3	2	11	3	4
Somewhat likely	13	12	12	14	13	12	12	15	13	11
Somewhat unlikely	21	22	22	19	22	20	22	18	22	20
Very unlikely	37	36	40	34	38	36	38	27	38	35
Definitely not possible	19	21	19	17	16	21	19	15	18	21
Don't know	8	6	4	12	8	7	6	12	6	9
7l. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has AIDS?										
Very likely	11	9	10	13	10	12	10	15	11	11
Somewhat likely	30	30	28	33	32	29	30	32	32	28
Somewhat unlikely	18	22	20	13	19	17	19	14	19	17
Very unlikely	22	22	24	19	24	20	23	15	23	20
Definitely not possible	9	10	10	7	8	9	9	11	7	12
Don't know	10	8	8	15	8	12	9	12	8	13

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1987—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
	Percent distribution[1]									
7m. Attending school with a child who has AIDS?										
Very likely	3	2	4	4	3	3	3	8	3	3
Somewhat likely	12	11	12	13	12	12	12	11	13	10
Somewhat unlikely	17	18	17	16	18	16	17	18	18	14
Very unlikely	38	39	40	34	39	36	40	27	38	37
Definitely not possible	20	24	21	17	18	22	20	21	18	24
Don't know	9	7	5	16	9	10	8	14	9	11
7n. Mosquitoes or other insects?										
Very likely	10	11	9	11	12	9	10	16	11	10
Somewhat likely	28	29	29	26	30	27	27	36	28	28
Somewhat unlikely	12	13	13	9	12	12	12	7	13	10
Very unlikely	19	18	22	15	20	18	19	16	19	18
Definitely not possible	10	11	10	10	9	11	11	7	10	11
Don't know	21	18	16	29	18	23	21	18	20	23
7o. Pets or animals?										
Very likely	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	8	3	3
Somewhat likely	10	14	9	9	11	10	9	17	10	10
Somewhat unlikely	12	14	12	9	12	11	12	12	12	11
Very unlikely	30	31	34	24	32	27	31	25	30	28
Definitely not possible	21	20	23	19	20	21	22	13	21	21
Don't know	24	18	19	35	22	27	24	24	24	26
7p. Having sex with a person who has AIDS?										
Very likely	92	95	94	89	90	94	93	91	93	92
Somewhat likely	5	4	5	7	7	4	6	3	5	5
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Very unlikely	0	1	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Definitely not possible	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	2	0	1	4	2	2	1	3	1	2
8. Have you ever heard of a blood test for infection with the AIDS virus?										
Yes	70	74	79	57	71	69	72	59	72	67
No	26	23	19	36	26	26	25	33	25	28
Don't know	4	2	2	7	3	4	3	8	3	5
9. Does this test tell whether a person has the disease AIDS?										
Yes	41	44	44	34	38	43	42	33	42	38
No	20	21	26	12	25	16	21	15	20	20
Don't know	10	10	8	11	9	10	9	11	10	8
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	30	26	21	43	29	31	28	42	28	33
10. If a person has a positive blood test for infection with the AIDS virus, does this mean that they can give someone else the AIDS virus through sexual intercourse?										
Yes	59	63	67	47	60	58	60	49	61	55
No	4	5	5	2	5	3	4	3	4	4
Don't know	7	7	7	8	7	8	7	6	7	8
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	30	26	21	43	29	31	28	42	28	33
11. Have you ever had your blood tested for infection with the AIDS virus?										
Yes	5	8	5	2	5	5	4	8	4	6
Yes, in blood donation/transfusion	2	3	3	1	3	2	3	1	3	2
No	62	62	69	53	62	62	63	49	64	57
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	30	26	21	43	29	31	28	42	28	33
12a. Have you ever thought about having this blood test?										
Already had test	8	12	9	3	9	7	8	9	7	8
Yes	11	16	14	4	12	10	10	15	9	15
No	50	45	55	49	49	51	52	31	54	42
Don't know	0	0	-	-	-	0	0	-	0	-
Never heard of test (no/don't know to q. 8)	31	27	22	44	30	33	30	45	30	35
12b. Do you plan to be tested in the next 12 months?										
Already had test	8	12	9	3	9	7	8	9	7	8
Yes	4	6	6	1	5	4	4	10	3	7
No	5	7	6	2	6	4	5	2	4	6
Don't know	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	3	2	2
Never heard of test or thought about having test (no/don't know to q. 8 or q. 12a)	81	72	77	94	79	83	82	76	84	77

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1987—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
	Percent distribution[1]									
13. Where would you go to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection?[3]										
Nowhere/wouldn't take test	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AIDS clinic	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	3	-	3
Other clinic	26	28	28	17	27	25	25	33	23	30
Doctor/HMO	52	49	52	60	53	50	52	57	57	46
Red Cross/blood bank	3	4	2	4	4	2	3	-	3	3
Other	10	7	11	11	9	11	10	5	8	12
Don't know	7	11	4	8	5	10	8	1	9	6
14. Where would you go to find out where to have this blood test?[2,4]										
AIDS hot line	9	5	23	-	9	9	10	-	-	22
AIDS clinic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other clinic	16	16	-	51	44	-	18	-	21	9
Doctor/HMO	26	19	11	100	34	22	30	-	18	38
Friends	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public health department	6	9	-	-	-	9	7	-	10	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nowhere	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	49	50	67	-	28	61	41	100	60	32
15. Have you donated blood since 1985?										
Yes	12	15	15	5	14	10	12	12	11	13
No	88	85	85	94	86	90	88	88	89	86
Don't know	0	-	0	1	0	0	0	-	0	0
16. Have you ever personally known anyone who had the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?										
Yes	12	20	13	5	11	14	13	10	10	16
No	87	79	86	94	88	86	87	88	89	82
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
17. What are the chances of someone you know getting the AIDS virus?										
High	10	12	13	6	11	10	10	16	10	11
Medium	18	25	20	11	19	18	19	18	18	18
Low	34	35	36	30	37	31	35	23	35	32
None	26	20	24	35	22	30	26	25	27	25
Refused	0	1	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	0
Don't know	11	7	7	19	11	11	10	19	10	13
18. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?										
High	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	2	1	2
Medium	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	5
Low	30	38	33	20	34	27	30	31	28	34
None	60	53	57	69	56	63	61	52	64	53
Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	5	4	3	8	5	5	4	11	4	7
19. Here are methods some people use to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity. How effective is—										
19a. Using a diaphragm?										
Very effective	2	3	1	3	2	2	2	5	1	4
Somewhat effective	11	16	9	9	10	11	10	13	10	12
Not at all effective	56	56	66	44	56	55	58	42	58	51
Don't know how effective	21	17	16	30	19	24	21	23	21	22
Don't know method	10	8	8	14	13	8	9	17	9	11
19b. Using a condom?										
Very effective	34	39	37	28	34	35	35	31	32	39
Somewhat effective	48	50	50	44	50	46	49	41	51	43
Not at all effective	6	5	7	6	4	7	5	11	6	6
Don't know how effective	8	3	5	15	7	8	8	10	8	9
Don't know method	4	2	2	8	4	4	3	7	4	4
19c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?										
Very effective	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	5	2	3
Somewhat effective	13	17	10	12	13	13	12	17	12	14
Not at all effective	54	55	64	42	53	55	56	43	56	50
Don't know how effective	21	16	15	30	20	21	20	21	21	21
Don't know method	10	9	8	13	12	8	9	14	9	12
19d. Being celibate, that is, not having sex at all?										
Very effective	89	88	91	87	87	90	90	82	90	87
Somewhat effective	5	8	4	4	6	4	5	6	5	5
Not at all effective	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	2
Don't know how effective	3	2	2	4	3	2	2	5	2	4
Don't know method	2	1	1	4	3	2	2	4	2	2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1987 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1987—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
	Percent distribution[1]									
19e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having a completely monogamous relationship, that is, having sex only with each other?										
Very effective	84	85	87	79	84	84	85	77	86	81
Somewhat effective	9	10	9	9	9	10	9	11	8	11
Not at all effective	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2
Don't know how effective	4	2	3	6	3	4	3	6	3	4
Don't know method	2	1	1	5	3	2	2	3	2	2
20. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?										
Yes	67	72	76	52	62	70	67	66	67	66
No	33	27	24	47	37	29	33	33	33	34
Don't know	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
21. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?										
0-3 days ago	20	22	23	16	20	20	20	24	20	21
4-7 days ago	17	17	20	15	16	18	18	15	18	15
8-14 days ago	7	9	8	5	7	8	7	6	7	7
15-31 days ago	11	11	13	7	9	12	11	10	11	11
More than 31 days ago	7	9	7	4	6	7	7	5	6	7
Never discussed (no/don't know to q. 20)	35	30	25	49	39	31	34	36	34	36
Don't know	3	2	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
24. Have you ever discussed AIDS with [any of your children age 10-17]?										
Yes	12	1	29	3	10	15	12	14	16	7
No	8	4	16	3	11	6	8	9	11	4
Don't know	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
No children 10-17 years of age[5]	79	95	55	94	79	80	79	77	74	89
25. Have your children had any instruction at school about AIDS?										
Yes	7	0	17	3	7	8	7	8	9	4
No	7	2	15	2	7	7	7	9	9	3
Don't know	6	2	14	2	8	5	7	6	8	4
No children 10-17 years of age[5]	79	95	55	94	79	80	79	77	74	89
26. Have you ever personally known anyone with the AIDS virus?										
Yes	6	7	9	3	5	7	6	10	5	9
No	92	92	90	96	94	91	93	88	94	90
Don't know	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
27. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS?										
Yes	6	7	9	4	5	8	6	11	5	9
No	92	93	90	95	94	91	93	87	94	89
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
28. The U.S. Public Health Service has said that AIDS is one of the major health problems in the country but exactly how many people it affects is not known. The Surgeon General has proposed that a study be conducted and blood samples be taken to help find out how widespread the problem is. If you were selected in this national sample of people to have their blood tested with assurances of privacy of test results, would you have the test?										
Yes	69	73	71	63	70	68	69	69	70	67
No	20	17	19	24	18	22	19	20	19	22
Other	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	3	4	4
Don't know	7	6	6	9	7	8	7	8	7	7
29. Would you want to know the results of the blood test?[6]										
Yes	97	96	97	99	97	97	98	96	97	97
No	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1

[1] Excludes persons for whom no response was recorded or who refused to respond. For questions 2 through 27, total also excludes persons who never heard of AIDS.
[2] Multiple responses may sum to more than 100 percent.
[3] Based on persons answering yes to question 12a.
[4] Based on persons answering don't know to question 13.
[5] Based on question 22, Do you have any children aged 10-17? Question 23 was, How many do you have?
[6] Based on persons answering yes to question 28.

NOTE: Total, age, sex, and marital status include persons of other and unknown race not shown separately under race.

Technical notes

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a continuous, cross-sectional household interview survey. Each week, a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the health and other characteristics of each member of the household. Supplemental information is collected for all or a sample of household members. The AIDS knowledge and attitudes questions were asked of a single randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each household. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 2,303 persons, or about 81 percent of eligible respondents.

Table I contains the estimated population size of each of the demographic subgroups included in table 1 to allow readers to derive provisional estimates of the number of people in the United States with a given characteristic, for example, the number of men who have heard of AIDS. Table II shows approximate standard errors of estimates presented in table 1. Both the estimates in table 1 and the standard errors in table II are provisional. They may differ slightly from estimates made using the final data file because they were calculated using a simplified weighting procedure that does not adjust for all the factors used in weighting the final data file. The final data file covering the entire 5-month period of data collection, August through December 1987, will be available in 1988.

Table I. Sample size for the National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes and estimated adult population 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1987

Characteristic	Sample size	Estimated population in thousands
All adults	2,303	174,528
Age		
18-29 years	556	47,583
30-49 years	862	66,250
50 years and over	885	60,695
Sex		
Male	960	82,703
Female	1,343	91,825
Race		
Black	283	19,107
White	1,951	150,008
Marital status		
Currently married	1,241	110,746
Unmarried	1,052	63,310

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percents from the National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes, by selected characteristics: United States, August 1987

Estimated percent	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Marital status	
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Married	Unmarried
5 or 95	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.7	0.6	0.8	0.8
10 or 90	0.8	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.0	2.3	0.8	1.0	1.1
15 or 85	0.9	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.2	2.7	1.0	1.3	1.3
20 or 80	1.0	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.3	3.0	1.1	1.4	1.5
25 or 75	1.1	2.2	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.4	3.3	1.2	1.5	1.6
30 or 70	1.2	2.3	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.5	3.5	1.3	1.6	1.7
35 or 65	1.2	2.4	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.6	3.6	1.3	1.7	1.8
40 or 60	1.3	2.5	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.6	3.7	1.4	1.7	1.8
45 or 55	1.3	2.5	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.7	3.8	1.4	1.8	1.9
50	1.3	2.6	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.7	3.8	1.4	1.8	1.9

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